(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government had examined the reasons for such disruption; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Internet services were affected in the month of January and February 2008.

(c) and (d) The availability of international bandwidth was affected due to breakdown of one international under-sea cable system near Malaysia and two international under-sea cable systems near Egypt. Various service providers had not planned restoration capacity on various under-sea cables to meet such exigencies.

Levying of fee on GSM operators

1423. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to initiate any action or levy an appropriate fee on the existing GSM operators for hoarding excess spectrum in excess of their licence agreement from the date of allocation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the manner, Government proposes to bridge its losses to tune of thousands of crores of rupees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) The initial spectrum has been allotted to the GSM operators as per provisions of their respective Service Licence Agreement and based on their request and availability of spectrum. With growth of their services, additional spectrum beyond the initial spectrum, has been allotted to GSM operators as per guidelines, orders and subscriber based eligibility criteria in force at the time of allotment of additional spectrum, subject to its availability.

Spectrum charges are levied from GSM operators on revenue share basis. Increased rate of revenue share percentage is levied for total spectrum, which includes initial as well as additional spectrum.

Cyber cafes in computerized Post Office

1424. DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering starting cyber cafes or internet access points in computerized post offices all over the country; and

(b) if not, will such a proposal be considered in the future as it will be a boon to the people especially in rural India and will also get in revenue for the department?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The Department

of Posts has set up internet kiosks in Post Offices and Railway Mail Service Offices in a few major cities to enable the customer to browse Internet and access different services. Internet kiosks have been established at some selected offices in Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Maharashtra Circle.

Computerization of Post Offices

1425. DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by Government to expedite the computerization of all the post office branches in the country;

(b) the total branches computerized as of now; and

(c) the reasons for delay in such computerization?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) In the Tenth Five Year Plan, Department of Posts proposed to computerize 7700 Departmental Post Offices. By the end of the Tenth Plan, 8263 Departmental Post Offices were computerized thereby exceeding the target. In the Eleventh Plan Department of Posts has a proposal to computerize remaining 17598 Departmental Post Offices and 64000 Extra Departmental Post Offices.

(b) Till date, 8726 Departmental Post Offices have been computerized.

(c) In view of the above, there is no delay in computerization of Post Offices.

River Ganga becoming reservoir of E. Coli

1426. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that as per new scientific evidence Ganga river has become reservoir of virulent forms of the bacteria. Escherichia coli known to cause ailments ranging from mild intestinal disease to severe kidney complications;

(b) whether Government is also aware that Ganga is most polluted at Kanpur, Varanasi and Haridwar;

(c) whether Government is also aware that Gangajal kills 250 a year; and

(d) if so, what Government has done to clean the holy river from pollutants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Indian Council of Medical Research and National Institute of Communicable Diseases under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. Government of India, are reportedly neither aware nor have conducted any study or survey regarding the Ganga river becoming a reservoir of virulent forms of bacteria, Escherichia coli.

The monitoring of water quality of river Ganga under the Ganga Action Plan indicates that the water quality of river is not complying with the desired standards in stretches along the towns of Kanpur and Varanasi, but meeting with the norms in its stretch along the Haridwar